

Lindisfarne Gospel (7th century)

Facsimile



This is a limited edition facsimile of the beautiful Lindisfarne Gospels manuscript.

The manuscript was produced on Lindisfarne in Northumbria in the late 7th century or early 8th century. The text is in Latin with interlinear Anglo-Saxon translation. The manuscript is generally regarded as the finest example of the kingdom's unique style of religious art, a style that combined Anglo-Saxon and Celtic themes. The Gospels are richly illustrated in the insular style, and were originally encased in a fine leather binding covered with jewels and metals. During the Viking raids on Lindisfarne this cover was lost and a replacement made in 1852.

The original manuscript is in the British Library in London.

Book of Kells (9th century)

Facsimile

This is a limited edition facsimile of the famous Book of Kells.

The illustrations and ornamentation of the Book of Kells surpass that of other Insular Gospel books in extravagance and complexity. The decoration combines traditional Christian iconography with the ornate swirling motifs typical of Insular art. Figures of humans, animals and mythical beasts, together with Celtic knots and interlacing patterns in vibrant colors, enliven the manuscript's pages. Many of these minor decorative elements are imbued with Christian symbolism and so further emphasize the themes of the major illustrations.

The original manuscript is in the Trinity College Library in Dublin.



from Robert Dearden, Jr. *The Guiding Light on the Great Highway*.
 C. Winston Co., 1929.

Biblia Sacra (13th century)

One of two manuscript Bibles that the library owns. The Bible was written on vellum with beautifully illuminated pages and contains many historiated initials and some floral borders. It also contains an index.

The manuscript was rebound in the 18th century.

Biblia Latina (14th century)

Small manuscript Bible, bound in leather with metal clasps. Written on vellum by a French scribe.

Amazingly small text containing many historiated capital letters and illuminated miniatures.



Page from the Gutenberg Bible

One page from an actual Gutenberg Bible



Gutenberg Bible (1450-55)

Facsimile

This is a facsimile edition of the complete Gutenberg Bible. The library has two sets of this edition, which is the first Gutenberg facsimile ever printed in the United States and only the second in the world. The reproduction derives from the Ansel Verlag edition which was based on the copy in the Koniglichen Bibliothek in Berlin and the copy in the

Standischen Landesbibliothek in Fulda

This edition is limited to 1000 numbered sets; the library has copy no. 15 and no. 30

Selected notes taken from Robert Dearden, Jr. *The Guiding Light on the Great Highway*. Philadelphia, The John C. Winston Co., 1929.

Jenson Bible (1479)



The earliest type had followed somewhat too closely the hand-written characters of the scribes. Perhaps that was most natural, but Jenson was bold enough to standardize his lettering with a handsome design that while it departed from the old style, approached too near perfection for the quill writer to imitate. His work has thus furnished a foundation that has stood the test of all succeeding centuries. It has been stated that as an ink-maker, engraver and printer, "he had no rival and left no successor."

The Jenson Latin Bible of 1476 is a beautiful specimen of typography and Jenson printed a second edition of the Latin Bible in the year 1479. Jenson by his art rose to affluence. Pope Sixtus IV called him to Rome, and elevated him to the nobility, bestowing on him the title of Count.

The Xavier copy of this Bible contains the bookplates of both Robert Dearden and William Davignon. Additionally, there are several note slips detailing the exact contents of the book, including "2 large, beautifully painted pictures, 78 superb, hand-painted miniatures, 96 hand-painted, fancy letters in flowers etc., and 1219 hand-painted letters."

Textus Biblie (1486)

The Textus Biblie is one of the most historically important Bibles owned by Xavier. Considered to be the first Bible to have been printed with a title page, the Textus Biblie was printed in 1486 in Germany, as evidenced by the copious amounts of handwritten German notes throughout the entirety of the tome. Before this time, paper was still quite expensive and purchasers of Bibles would know what was being purchased. As such, a title page was deemed unnecessary until this edition.

The Textus Biblie was printed by John Prüss of Strassburg and follows the style of other Fontibus ex Graecis Bibles, which were popular between 1479 and 1489. This particular copy is one of four in the United States and the first signs of private ownership date to 1645, as denoted by the inscription on the first page. The title page was originally only inscribed with "Textus Biblie," though the other inscriptions certainly add a unique character to the book.



Selected notes taken from Robert Dearden, Jr. *The Guiding Light on the Great Highway*. Philadelphia, The John C. Winston Co., 1929.

Froben Bible (1495)



Another celebrated Bible printer and scholar was Johann Froben of Basle, Switzerland, whose splendidly printed books early attracted attention. Froben, who was born in 1460, was one of the first to bring out the Bible in small size. The earlier Bibles had been principally of large folio size and were no doubt expensive productions, and restricted to a few. But Froben, as a business man, was quick to see that the great field lay with the masses, and accordingly his small Bible has consequently been called the first edition of the “Poorman’s Bible,” as it was his purpose to place it within the reach of all. The Froben Bible was a beautiful example of the printer’s art, being printed in small double columns, the full size of the page measuring only 4 x 5 ¾ inches.

The Xavier copy was previously owned by a library in Berlin, evidenced by a series of stamps on the title page.

Additional ownership includes an unidentified owner (whose inscription also lies on the title page) and Robert Dearden.

Tyndale’s New Testament (1534)

Driven out of England, Tyndale started the printing of his famous Testament at Cologne. Peter Quentell is generally supposed to have been the printer. It is thought that he first printed the Gospels of Matthew and Mark separately. No copies, however, are known to be extant. Later he had to flee to Worms, Germany, where the printing of the first Bible text in English was completed. Only a fragment exists of the first issue, and but two imperfect copies of the Worms edition. Tyndale’s work was a courageous undertaking and created intense religious controversy, and Tyndale was finally captured and burned at the stake during October 1536. The reading of the New Testament was prohibited by proclamation and all copies confiscated and burned, so that of the several editions known to have been printed before 1534 no other copies exist today. Of the edition of 1534 very few copies have survived, and exceedingly few complete copies.



The Xavier copy is a 1534 edition of the Testament and contains many handwritten notes detailing the provenance of the book. It contains the bookplate of Lord Amherst of

Selected notes taken from Robert Dearden, Jr. *The Guiding Light on the Great Highway*. Philadelphia, The John C. Winston Co., 1929.

Hackney and Robert Dearden, both with handwritten notes about the history of the book. In the Book of Revelation, there are several illustrations of the actual workings of the Apocalypse, including a rather frightening depiction of the seven-headed dragon.

Douay-Rheims Bible

New Testament (1582)

Old Testament (1609)



For fifty years the Catholic Church it had endeavored to prevent the translation of the Bible into English, but found itself powerless to stem the tide, and at last decided to make such a translation for its own people. This translation of the stands out as the first English version prepared specifically for the followers of the Roman Catholic Church. Previously the translators, mainly Protestants, had been stimulated by the wave of reformation sweeping over the Church, and to meet the demand of the times this edition was produced by the Catholic exiles during the reign of Queen Elizabeth for their brethren in the faith. Chief among the learned men who labored on the work was Gregory Martin, and it must be conceded that his translations exerted a pronounced influence on the King

James version of 1611, transmitting to its distinctive phrases and style of expression. The New Testament was printed in 1582; the Old Testament was not published until 1609-1610, when it appeared in two volumes. It was produced at the English College at Douay.

The Xavier copies contain several bookplates, including those of Henry Howard, Charles Edward Harris St. John, and Carl Taboris. The second volume of the 1609 edition contains an exceedingly rare errata page at the end, an interesting addition, in that it is a continuation of the manuscript bibles adding or correcting errors post-production.

King James Bible (1611)

The King James Version of the Bible is perhaps the most prominent English-language version of the Bible. Commissioned by King James I of England and VI of Scotland, the work of translation lasted between 1603 and 1611. The scripture was “newly translated out of the originall tongues: & with the former Translations diligently compared and reuised by his Maiesties speciall Comandement.” It was “Appointed to be read in Churches.” Furthermore, it was printed by the appointed Royal Printer, Robert Barker. This edition is sometimes known as the “She Bible”, based on the text in the Book of Ruth 3:15. Another edition mistakenly used the word ‘he’ instead of ‘she’.



The Xavier copy contains bookplates from Robert Dearden and the Earl of Carysfort/Elton Hall from 1894. Labels from “Pollard: Bookseller, Truro, Falmouth & Penzance,” and an ecclesiastical art exhibition are also present. The volume also contains a note paper in Dearden’s hand, indicating that this is a “fine copy,” and also a second issue of the first edition.

London Polyglot (1655)



The Polyglot was first planned in 1647 but published in 1657 in London, due to financial concerns, the Walton Polyglot was several years in the making, finally being approved by Oliver Cromwell, who decreed that paper for the books be imported duty-free. This approval was granted in exchange for the Polyglot being dedicated to Cromwell. However, Cromwell died in 1658, and the books dedicated to Charles II instead. This change in monarch and dedication, combined with the impressive work contained in the Polyglot led to Charles II naming Walton Bishop of Chester. The Polyglot was the first book offered in England by subscription and cost over £9000 in 1657, near unthinkable sums for any time period.

The Polyglot contains the sacred text in Hebrew, Latin Vulgate, Greek, Chaldean, Syriac, Arabic, Aethiopic, Persian, Samaritan-Hebrew, and Samaritan-Targum. To accommodate the huge amount of text, the pages are 18”x11.5” and fills 8 volumes. The Walton Polyglot is considered the last of the great Polyglots, due to Bibles being printed in only one language following this point.

Selected notes taken from Robert Dearden, Jr. *The Guiding Light on the Great Highway*. Philadelphia, The John C. Winston Co., 1929.

Xavier owns are only six of the eight original volumes, for reasons unknown. The provenance of the volumes Xavier owns includes ownership by Charles Williams, Robert Dearden, the Heytesbury House (of England), and an earlier owner, whose bookplate was occluded by that of the Heytesbury House in the sixth volume.

Saur Bible (1743)

The Saur Bible, first printed in 1743 was the first Bible to be printed in America in a “civilized language.” Before this time, the scriptures had been translated into and printed in one of the Native American languages. The fact that the Bible is in German and not English is another curiosity; English-language Bibles in the colonies were procurable with ease, as they cost very little and had lower import taxes levied against them compared to other goods. The Germans, however, did not have the same luxury; many German immigrants came to the Colonies searching for religious freedom and as such found it necessary to produce their own Bibles. The Saur Bible was the first of these. The actual text of the Bible, as with most German-language Bibles dating before the 20th Century is the Luther Translation.



Xavier owns three copies of Saur Bibles, all of different years. The 1743 edition (a first edition) features the bookplate of John and Helen Friel and inscriptions dating between 1816 and 183x, presumably those of Johannes Langenecker, whose name is proudly displayed on the title page. The back cover features inscriptions from 1789 and 1798, though it is unclear who wrote these.

Aitken Bible (1782)



The Aitken Bible, so named due to its publication by Philadelphian Robert Aitken, was printed in 1782. It is divided into two volumes, the first containing books Genesis to Psalms and the second containing books Proverbs to Revelation. The Aitken Bible is noteworthy because it was the first American Bible in English. It was such a monumental project that Congress sanctioned and commemorated the completion of the Bible. A dedication is present on the pages immediately before Genesis.

Selected notes taken from Robert Dearden, Jr. *The Guiding Light on the Great Highway*. Philadelphia, The John C. Winston Co., 1929.

The Xavier copy is of special concern: it is a presentation copy from Robert Aitken. The handwritten dedication appears on the back of the title page to the New Testament, and reads "Presented to Robert Smith by Robert Aitken 1783."

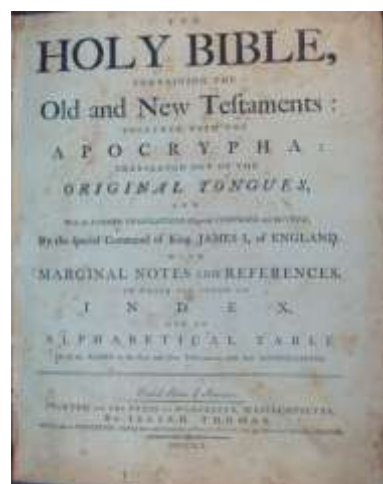
Carey, Stewart & Co. Bible (1790)

This Bible is the first English-language Catholic Bible to be printed in America, by Carey, Stewart, and Co. of Philadelphia in 1790. The text is based on both the Doway and Clementine translations and revisions of the scriptures.

The Xavier copy has many interesting features. In addition to the bookplate of Dearden, inscriptions date to 1791 by a Lyle Davis. In addition to Davis' inscription, the volume contains the family records of the Burk family. The records begin at the end of the Book of Proverbs and detail both the birth years and death years of several generations of the Burk family, dating between 1768 and 1862. On the final page of this notes section, the records of the Hendrickson family are detailed, though these are limited to birth records. It is noted on one of the pages that Ann Burk married W. Hendrickson, 29 January AD 1818. On the following page, it is noted that the Ms. Ann was born 25 January 1796 and died 2 June 1860. From this, it can be assumed that the Bible was passed down through Ann Burk/Hendrickson's family until it came to Robert Dearden's collection.



Thomas Bible (1791)



Following closely on the heels of the Aitken Bible came two other noted editions from the energetic printing house of Isaiah Thomas of Worcester, Mass. Mr. Thomas produced fine copies, the first Bible in folio size and the first Bible in quarto size in the English language in this country. The Thomas Bibles were printed during the year 1791. The Thomas bible in quarto size is a fine book, containing the Old Testament 736 pages. Here the Apocryphal books have been inserted, occupying 100 pages without any numbering, which starts in again after the title page to the New Testament with 739 and continues on to the end, page No. 951. Thomas in an edition of the Bible printed in 1797 had his imprint on the title page with this country referred to as: "The United States of Columbia."

Selected notes taken from Robert Dearden, Jr. *The Guiding Light on the Great Highway*. Philadelphia, The John C. Winston Co., 1929.

As with all Collins Bibles, the copy owned by Xavier contains a note asking readers to purchase American-made Bibles rather than those imported from Europe, due to the immense cost incurred in the production of the Bibles. The Xavier copy also contains bookplates from Robert Dearden and family records of the Hodges family, dating back to the 1780s.

Fore-edge Bible (1815)

A three-volume Bible, the aptly-named "Fore-edge" Bible is an English-language Bible, printed in London in 1813 and features engravings by Charles Heath. The Bible



contains the King James text and contains a dedication to the same; a curiosity, considering his death almost 200 years earlier.

This particular edition is interesting due to the presence of scenes hidden under the gilded fore-edges. When viewed from the proper angle, the scenes of a city become visible. There are neither bookplates nor inscriptions to give clues to its provenance.

The St. John's Bible (1998-2011)



The first illuminated handwritten Bible of monumental size to be commissioned by a Benedictine Monastery in 500 years. All 73 books are presented in seven volumes. The Bible is being made using traditional materials such as vellum, ancient inks, gold and silver leaf and is being written with quill pens fashioned from goose, turkey, and swan feathers.

The manuscript is kept at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library on the campus of St. John's Abbey & University in Minnesota. Selected

pages are now in a traveling exhibit, currently at Mount. St. Joseph.

Selected notes taken from Robert Dearden, Jr. *The Guiding Light on the Great Highway*. Philadelphia, The John C. Winston Co., 1929.

The Heritage Edition of *The Saint John's Bible* is the full-size fine art reproduction of the original. Measuring two feet tall by three feet wide when open, it is the exact size of the original manuscript. Each volume of the Heritage Edition is signed by the chief scribe and illuminator, Donald Jackson. The edition is limited to 360 signed and numbered sets and contains the same seven volumes as the original. Many of the illuminations are touched-up by hand, including the burnishing of gold leaf. In addition, an eighth volume of commentary that places *The Saint John's Bible* in its historical context and describes several of the illuminations will accompany the volumes.